DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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TO : Department of State

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INFO : CINCPAC FOR POLAD
DANANG
HUE

EXCISE

FROM : AmEmbassy SAIGON

DATE: September 11, 1966

SUBJECT : The Candidates in III Corps

REF :

This airgram consists of a general summary of the electoral picture in the eleven constituencies of III Corps (exclusive of Saigon and Gia Dinh); a listing of the candidates in each constituency, with an identification of likely winners; and a statistical analysis of the candidates.

General Summary:

The provinces of III Corps have little of the secular political activity (and factionalism) that is found elsewhere in Viet-Nam. Instead, there is a high degree of religious polarization, particularly among the Cao Dai and the Catholics. This tendency is notable in Tay Ninh, where only proportional representation may stop the list backed by the Holy See from winning both seats; in Bien Hoa, where three wholly Catholic lists and a fourth headed by a Catholic are fighting it out among themselves and almost ignoring their competition; and in Long Khanh, where of five Catholic candidates has the support of most of the clergy and seems certain of election.

The Buddhist population of III Corps has not responded to the election boycott ordered by the Unified Buddhist Association. There are numerous Buddhists (at least nominal ones) running for office, and there is a list in Binh Duong province using the "white lotus" symbol despite the objections of the UBA. A candidate in Phuoc Tuy province probably expects that recent meetings with Thich Tam Chau will enhance his appeal to Buddhist voters. (The same candidate, Nguyen huu HIEU, is the brother of the Minister of Labor and the closest relative of any member of the present government that the Embassy has identified in the entire field of candidates.)

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Military participation in the election varies with each division in the Corps area. This suggests that the Corps Commander, Major General Le nguyen KHANG, who has been in the job only three months, took a much less active role than did his counterparts in II and IV Corps. There are military officers running in all three provinces of the 25th Division's tactical area, but only one (in Tay Ninh) is conceded any chance of election. Manipulation by the Province Chief of Binh Long (presumably at the direction of the 5th Division Commander) will almost certainly result in the election of a military officer there, and Division support will help to elect an officer in Binh Duong. In the third province of the DTA the military candidate withdrew when he determined that he could not get sufficient local support. In the 10th Division's tactical area, by contrast, there are few military candidates and it is doubtful that any will be elected.

The proximity of several III Corps provinces to the Saigon/Gia Dinh metropolitan area obviously tempted several candidates; the percentage of non-resident candidates is higher in III Corps than anywhere else in the country.

Except for the presence of the Catholic Greater Solidarity Forces, which has branches in several provinces, there is no discernible "party" activity, and there are no other organizational links between candidates in different provinces. In this setting, members of the Provincial Councils elected in 1965 are particularly prominent; they include all three of the candidates in Phuoc Long; four of the five in Long An; and three of the five who originally filed in Binh Long.

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VUNG TAU/CON SON

(Ref: A-62, August 4, 1966)

One seat. Seven candidates. No withdrawals or disqualifications.

1. Truong van CHE. Born 1918, Hung Yen, NVN. Catholic. Tailor. No previous political activity.

2. Nguyen trong DONG. Born July 23, 1902, Hai Duong, NVN. Believed to be a Buddhist. French law degree, 1931. Long service as a judge and administrator in Hanoi and then Saigon; presently Chairman of State Council. Has never before campaigned for office.

3. Hong quoc AN. Born August 15, 1924, Hai Phong, NVN. Chinese ancestry. Buddhist. Surete agent in Hai Phong pre-1954. Vung Tau Chairman of National Revolutionary Movement during Diem era. Owns a bar and an ice cream parlor. This is An's first venture into politics since fall of Diem government.

4. Do trong CHU. Born January 1, 1924, Ha Nam, NVN. Catholic. College graduate, studied in United States. Consul, Djakarta, 1963. Member of Gia Dinh Provincial Council, close to Phan Quang Dan. Director of Vietnamese-American Association, Vung Tau, since January, 1966. Wife owns beachfront snack bar.

5. Nguyen manh BINH. Born January 15, 1937, Ha Bac, NVN. Probably Catholic. Graduate of University of Saigon (Pedagogy), 1961. Joined Vietnam Press, was detailed to Presidential Press Office under Diem in 1962-63 and to the Prime Minister's Press Office under Huong in 1964. Has also served Pham Huy Quat twice as private secretary while Quat was Foreign Minister and later Prime Minister, and is said to be Quat's protege. Binh continued as private secretary to the Prime Minister when Ky took office, but resigned seven months ago to become Public Relations Director at the Revolutionary Development Cadre Training Center. May have Dai Viet leanings.

6. Trinh vinh HOA. Born January 11, 1941, Kien Giang, SVN. Buddhist. Political lecturer at R. D. Cadre Training Center.

7. Huynh van YEN, aka Huynh binh YEN. Born 1906, Phong Dinh, SVN. Owner of small charcoal factory in Vung Tau, and Secretary of City Council. Unsuccessful in bid for National Assembly seat against Diem-sponsored candidate, 1963.

Comment: YEN is candidate best-known to Vung Tau electorate, and led field by wide margin in 1965 Municipal Council elections. He is regarded as a champion of the little man and seems most likely to win. Of the other candidates, CHU will probably win a majority of Catholic votes

935% of electorate), but CHE enjoys some support in humbler Catholic circles. BINH, recipient of some illicit assistance from local military officers, will win most of military and cadre votes, with remainder going to HOA. DONG, although professional credentials are impressive, virtually unknown in Vung Tau and should trail YEN, CHU and BINH. AN candidacy, like that of CHE and HOA, is hopeless.

City authorities predict that 90% of the 37,162 registered voters will cast ballots.

BIEN HOA

(Ref: Encl. 1 to A-45, July 30, 1966; A-91, August 15, 1966; Embtel 5095, September 2, 1966)

Three seats, six lists. No withdrawals or disqualifications.

List I: (Norminally independent, this list is sponsored by the Luc Luong Dai Doan Ket (Greater Solidarity Force), the most prominent refugee Catholic lay organization. All list members are northern Catholics.

1. Vu minh CHAU. Born October 10, 1912, Nam Dinh, NVN. Wealthy textile mill owner, chairman of province electric power and textile cooperatives. Figurehead chairman of strong Bien Hoa branch of Dai Doan Ket. No previous national political ambitions. Completely responsive to DDK leadership.

2. Tran the LY. Born August 20, 1931, Nam Dinh, NVN. High school teacher, resident of Saigon. Chief of Training and Propaganda branch of Catholic Citizen's Bloc. Campaigning actively; a forceful speaker.

3. Hoang thai NINH. Born February 12, 1923, Phu Tho, NVN. High school teacher and Saigon resident. National Secretary-General of DDK.

List II: (Independent, Catholic)

1. Truong tien DAT. Born December 8, 1933, Thai Binh, NVN. Judge in neighboring Binh Duong province. Said to be backed by certain influential Saigon Catholic political figures. Intellectual favorite.

2. Tran van DIEN. Born April 5, 1934, Bui Chu, NVN. Saigon high school teacher, member of DDK.

3. Bui dinh TUYEN. Born December 28, 1918, Hanoi, NVN. Chief Judge, Thi Nghe district, Gia Dinh province.

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List III: (Sponsored by the "Dong Nai Mutual Assistance Association", a nominally social organization with a Southern regionalist orientation to which all three candidates belong.)

1. Tang SANH. Born August 19, 1910, Bien Hoa, SVN. Buddhist. Retired minor official and small rubber planter.

2. Vo van QU[illegible]n December 13, 1927, Bien Hoa, SVN. Confucianist. "Political adv[illegible]o Dong Nai Association, until recently editor of Association-fin[illegible] Bien Hoa newspaper. French sociology degree.

3. Pham van THAI. Born August 12, 1911, Bien Hoa. Retired official, at one time a district chief in Delta.

List IV: (Independent, moderate Buddhist)

1. Do huu QUON. Born December 11, 1909, Bien Hoa, SVN. Retired official, prominent in province. Secretary of Province Council. Wife now a Buddhist nun.

2. Vo van TRUYEN. Born 1896, Bien Hoa, SVN. Buddhist. Former Viet Minh district chief (1946-49), lumber dealer, a Bien Hoa representative in National Assembly (1956), Province Councilman.

3. Nguyen van TRI. Born May 7, 1921, Bien Hoa, SVN. Confucianist. Lumber dealer, Province Councilman.

List V: (Independent, linked to Dai Viet [Duy Dan] Party)

1. Le quang LUAT. Born May 27, 1916, Hanoi, NVN. Catholic. Lawyer, Saigon political "pro". Advisor to Bishop of Phat Diem (NVN), 1949-53; Minister of Information and GVN Delegate to NVN, 1954, dismissed on peculation charge; hesitant oppositionist, signed Caravelle petition, 1960, twice defeated in bid for National Assembly seat; long association with Dai Viet (Duy Dan) Party; "attentiste" since overthrow of Diem government.

2. Tran son HA. Born November 12, 1940, Hai Phong, NVN. Buddhist. Junior law partner of Luat's.

3. Nghiem xuan THO. Born March 12, 1911, Ha Dong, NVN. Catholic. Doctor, Chief Bien Hoa Public Health Service.

List VI: (Independent)

1. Vu tri PHUONG. Born 1904, Bui Chu, NVN. Principal of private high school, long-time Bien Hoa Catholic politician. Chairman province marketing cooperative, several other committees. Voted out of office as Province Council Chairman, July, 1966. Phuong's influence in Catholic circles has slipped drastically in last year.

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2. Vo van SO. Born October 10, 1908, Bien Hoa, SVN. Buddhist. Former policeman. Province Councilman.

3. Bui tien DAT. Born May 15, 1917, Bui Chu, NVN. Catholic. Farmer and village chief. Province Councilman.

Comment: QUON (List IV), with discreet backing of most Bien Hoa temples, should win most of non-Catholic vote and lead the field by a wide margin. Northern Catholics, one-third of electorate, are deeply divided, but DDK candidate CHAU (List I) is assured of second seat. The remaining seat a toss-up; DAT (List II), LUAT (List IV), or TRUYEN (Number 2 on QUON's list) could win it. PHUONG (List VI) and SANH (List III) have no chance. 70-75% of electorate will vote.

BINH DUONG

(Ref: A-127, August 31, 1966)

Two seats. Six lists. No disqualifications or withdrawals.

List I. (Independent)

1. Pham dinh HUNG. Born July 4, 1935, Binh Duong, SVN. Confucianist. Judge, Court of 1st Instance, Saigon, and Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Interior.. A protege of Justice Minister Tran minh Tiet. No previous political activity.

2. Pham dinh LAN. Born February 1, 1940, Binh Duong, SVN. High school teacher, Gia Dinh. HUNG's brother.

List II. (Independent)

1. Cao dinh HUE. Born January 8, 1936, Nam Dinh, NVN. Proprietor of typing school, Bien Hoa, and member of Bien Hoa Province Council. Catholic.

2. Nguyen van Y. Born December 20, 1916, Tay Ninh, SVN. Catholic. ARVN lieutenant colonel, now commands Bien Hoa military police detachment. Recently stationed in Binh Duong.

List III. (Military, backed by ARVN 5th Division commander, Brig. Gen. Pham quoc Thuan)

1. Tran van THANH. Born December 25, 1923, Nam Dinh, NVN. ARVN major; for past two years chief, Political Warfare Section, 5th Division (headquartered in Binh Duong). Twenty years' military service.

2. Tran van THEM. Born February 18, 1932, at Hai Phong, NVN. On staff of military engineering school, Binh Duong.

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List IV. (Independent)

1. (Mrs.) Duong thi HIEM. Born June 8, 1920, Binh Duong, SVN. Buddhist. Widow of a former Binh Duong District Chief. Member of Province Council, long record of social work. [redacted] b-1 ed

2. Nguyen van SO. Born March 19, 1919, Binh Duong, SVN. Buddhist. Village chief.

List V. (Independent)

1. Nguyen dinh QUAT. Born February 1, 1917, Ha Tinh, CVN. Catholic. Wealthy businessman and owner of several rubber plantations, two in Binh Duong. Ran against Diem in 1962 Presidential election. [redacted] and of Khoi Dan-Chu Cap-Tien (Radical Democratic Bloc), a splinter party. b-1 ed

2. Tran xuan THUYET. Born January 1, 1907, Hung Yen, NVN. Saigon librarian. Probably Catholic.

List VI. (Buddhist)

1. Trinh van THANH. Born September 18, 1926, Gia Dinh, SVN. Teacher, Buddhist high school, Binh Duong. Reportedly urged students to demonstrate against government during recent "Struggle Movement".

2. Le phat TRIEN. Born 1939, Kien Hoa, SVN. Also teacher at Binh Duong Buddhist high school.

Comment: Likely winners are province- and 5th Division-backed Major THANH (List III) and popular do-gooder Mrs. HIEM (List IV). QUAT (List V) whose populist stance is blemished by widely-believed allegations of corruption, and colorless but well-educated Judge HUNG (List I) also have chance. Despite some quiet backing by province pagodas, THANH of List VI given no chance. HUE's candidacy (List II) is also hopeless.

Sixty percent of electorate should vote. Seventy-five thousand voters are registered.

BINH LONG

(Ref: A-90, August 15, 1966) [redacted] b-1 eC

One seat. Three candidates. Two candidates, either of whom might have won, withdrew, apparently under pressure from Province Chief.

1. Ly trong LE. Born December 26, 1933, Hue, CVN. Catholic. Major, 9th Regiment, 5th Division, ARVN. Stationed in neighboring Binh Duong province.

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2. Pham van QUA. Born November 16, 1915, Gia Dinh, SVN. Catholic. Rubber plantation pharmacist, 1937-49; , Village Chief, 1956-63; 1963-present, merchant. Vice-chairman of Province Council.

3. Phung huu SUU. Born June 22, 1930, Nam Dinh, NVN. Buddhist. Official of Ministry of Youth and Sports, was stationed in Binh Long 1963-66 as Youth Service Chief.

Withdrew:

1. Vo van DAT. Born 1914, Vinh Long, SVN. Chairman of Province Council and a leader of Rubber Workers' Union.

2. Doan van GIAP. Born 1921, Hai Phong, NVN. Buddhist. Rubber Workers' Union official (a former chairman), and province councilman.

Comment: Either DAT or GIAP, if they had remained in the race, would have led field. When Province Chief threatened them with disclosure of police investigations alleging Viet Cong tendencies on part of both candidates and embezzlement on DAT's part, both withdrew. Their withdrawal cleared way for Major LE, who is expected to demolish light opposition of QUA and SUU, who can pit only support of Catholic and Buddhist faithful, respectively, against powerful province GVN organization supporting LE. Ironically, LE also appears likely to win vote of most rubber workers. (The other four candidates appealed Le's candidacy on the ground that his military position was higher than that of a battalion commander, who is not permitted to run. Central Electoral Council rejected this complaint because Le is evidently not holding a troop command at present.) Sixty-five to seventy percent of the electorate of 26,574 will vote.

BINH TUY

(Ref: A-108, August 24, 1966)

One seat. Two candidates. One candidate withdrew.

1. Nguyen trong BUONG. Born March 13, 1930, Ha Tinh, NVN. Catholic. Provincial General Secretary of National Revolutionary Movement and Chairman of Republican Youth Association during Diem era. Reduced to Assistant Youth Officer in a remote district following November, 1963, coup, he resigned from civil service in 1965. Now working as clerk in a sawmill.

2. Nguyen van HUNG. Born May 1, 1929, Phu Yen, CVN. Former photographer, entered civil service in 1956. Served as Assistant District Chief, 1961-65, now is Province Chief of Cabinet. Professes no religion.

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Withdrew: Tran minh GIAO. Born September 2, 1938, Nam Dinh, NVN. Catholic. Graduate of National Institute of Administration, now Chief of province Finance Service. Apparently withdrew when unable to win clerical support.

Comment: Neither candidate appears to excite much interest in Binh Tuy. Buong, with strong backing of large Catholic community, should win. Province Chief predicts that 75% of Binh Tuy's 24,000 registrants will vote.

HAU NGHIA

One seat. Five candidates.. One candidate was excluded.

1. Ho van TIEN. Born April 4, 1908, Ba Xuyen, SVN. Buddhist. Merchant. Served with Viet Minh as an administrative cadre, 1945-52. Finished first in 1965 Provincial Council election and was then selected chairman. Symbol: Scales of justice.

2. Nguyen ngoc AN. Born January 19, 1915, Hau Nghia (then Tay Ninh), SVN. Buddhist. Headmaster of private high school. Former civil servant. Participated as a "notable" in National Political Congress, April, 1966. Now a member of People's-Army Congress and of its Cultural and Welfare Committee; reportedly nominated for the Congress by Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen luu Vien. Symbol: Buffalo.

3. Truong khanh TAO. Born May 15, 1927, Ha Dong, NVN. Cao Dai. Gives address as bookshop in province capital but is believed to live in Gia Dinh. According to his campaign literature, Tao was a follower of Cao Dai General Trinh minh The and served in the office of the Chief of State (Phan khac Suu) in 1965. Tao advocates a President elected by a college of notables and a Prime Minister responsible to a bicameral legislature. He filed a complaint against fellow candidates Le and Chuc (below); Central Electoral Council rejected Chuc's candidacy. Tao also protested the order of the list of candidates, claiming to have filed first. He was moved from fifth to fourth on the list. Symbol: "Bright star". Reportedly the "government candidate".

4. Nguyen dang LE. Born November 27, 1926, Ha Noi, NVN. Religion unknown. ARVN captain; attached to 25th Infantry Division (stationed in the province). Symbol: "Thunderbolt".

5. Nguyen van TIEN. Born 1934, Hau Nghia (then Tay Ninh), SVN. Identified as a Buddhist. Civil servant (director of district Chieu Hoi center). Symbol: Conical hat.

Disqualified: Pham ngoc CHUC, 26-year-old graduate from the National Institute of Administration from Vinh Long, was disqualified by the Central Electoral Council as the result of Tao's complaint. Chuc is reportedly serving as chief of the provincial Administrative or Finance

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Service, not a prohibited position for a candidate according to the Electoral Law, but was apparently disqualified anyway. A report from the province, however, indicates that Chuc was told by the Secretariat of State for Finance to resign his candidacy or his job.

Comment: An early report indicated that only Ho van Tien was known throughout the province. Later information is that Nguyen ngoc An has campaigned effectively and is considered to be gaining on Tao, the "government candidate". (Tao, as a Cao Dai, undoubtedly has the support of the Province Chief, who is a co-religionist.)

LONG KHANH

(Ref: Embtel 5236, September 5, 1966)

One seat. Seven candidates. Eight originally filed; three were disqualified at province level but two were reinstated by Central Electoral Council.

1. Tran trung TRIET. Born July 14, 1901, Ninh Binh, NVN. Catholic. Oriental physician. Appointed Chairman of Province Council by Province Chief, January, 1966.

2. Le TAO. Born November 17, 1918, Hanoi. Recent convert to Catholicism. ARVN major. Director of Programs and Documents, Ministry of Information and Chieu Hoi. Previously Military Police officer, Saigon, and in 1961, Provost Marshal, I Corps. Excluded by Provincial Electoral Council for lack of documentation, but reinstated by Central Electoral Council after supplying missing documents.

3. Dang cao THANH. Born 1907. Quang Tri, CVN. Buddhist. Tailor. Excluded by Provincial Electoral Council because of criminal conviction for which he claimed to have received amnesty; reinstated by Central Electoral Council.

4. Nguyen van THAN. Born December 21, 1909, Hanoi, NVN. Catholic. Medic, in Long Khanh since 1962. Member of Provincial Council.

5. Vo van HIEP. Born February 2, 1932, Thua Thien, CVN. Protestant. Watch repairman, lives in Saigon.

6. Nguyen minh DANG. Born August 13, 1938, Nam Dinh, NVN. Catholic. Saigon high school teacher and political advisor to Luc Luong Dai Doan Ket (Greater Solidarity Force), premier Northern Catholic lay organization. Now also serving as 1st Lieutenant at Regional Forces HQ.

7. Dinh cong NGHIEP. Born 1904, Ha Dong, NVN. Catholic. Sometime journalist and member of Bien Hoa Province Council.

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Disqualified: Le Dinh THAI, Born December 29, 1941, Ha Bac, NVN. Catholic convert. Recent graduate of University of Dalat (Political Economy), was one of youngest delegates to National Political Congress in April, 1966, in which he served as Assistant Secretary General. Father is Long Khanh Agricultural Service Chief. Was disqualified because underage; had hoped that exception would be made.

Comment: DANG, solidly backed by Catholic clergy in this 65% Catholic province, should win handily. TAO, with backing of some military and Montagnard voters, and TRIET, the Province Chief's favorite, pose threats. Buddhist THANH could squeak through if the Catholic vote is sufficiently fragmented among the five Catholic candidates. HIEP, THAN and NGHIEP have no chance.

The Province Chief predicts a 75-80% turnout by the electorate of 50,000.

LONG AN

One seat. Five candidates, four of whom are members of the Provincial Council. A sixth was disqualified.

1. Le tai HOA. Born March 9, 1920, Long An, SVN. Confucianist. Landowner and businessman. Inherited the holdings of his father, a wealthy landowner; some of the family holdings are in Tan Tru district, much of which is under VC control. Hoa was a soccer hero in his youth and later managed a movie house. Said to have two wives and 17 children. Finished first in Provincial Council election, 1965, with 23% more votes than the next candidate; served as chairman 1965-66. - Attended National Political Congress, April 1966. One of two secretaries-general of Electoral Law Drafting Committee, May-June 1966. First deputy secretary-general of People's-Army Congress, for which he was reportedly nominated by Tran van An.

2. Pham le THAO. Born January 16, 1922, Dinh Tuong, SVN. Cao Dai. ARVN lieutenant colonel; staff officer (psywar) of 25th Infantry Division in Hau Nghia province.

3. Tieu van PHUNG. Born October 6, 1923, Long An, SVN. Confucianist. High school teacher. Finished seventh of twelve winners in Provincial Council election, 1965; chairman of the Council, 1966-67.

4. Huynh van CHO. Born April 1, 1923, Long An, SVN. Catholic. Insurance representative and chairman of provincial Tri-Lambretta drivers' union. Finished twelfth of twelve elected to Provincial Council in 1965.

5. Tran van DO. Born December 6, 1933, Bac Lieu, SVN. Confucianist. Finished eighth in Provincial Council election and presently secretary-general of the Council. Former canton chief.

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Disqualified: Pham van DONG, 44-year-old ARVN captain and CO 1st Battalion, 46th Regiment, was disqualified under the provision of the electoral law stating that a battalion commander may not run in the constituency in which he is stationed. Appealed unsuccessfully to the Central Electoral Council that his battalion was "mobile" and that he should therefore be allowed to run.

Comment: Observers in the province consider Phung the most able candidate but believe that Hoa will win if people vote traditionally, i.e., choose the candidate who has been most often in the public eye and active in local politics the longest.

PHUOC LONG

(Ref: A-89, August 15, 1966)

One seat. Three candidates. Two candidates withdrew.

1. Nguyen ba LUONG. Born January 21, 1902, Kien Phong, SVN. Buddhist. Completed three years at University of Lille. A former postal inspector, he came to province in 1961 to serve as chief accountant of French Bu Dop rubber plantation. Leading vote-getter in Provincial Council election, 1965; now serves as Chairman of Council.

2. Nguyen van CHINH. Born August 10, 1916, Binh Duong, SVN. Catholic. A village chief in Binh Duong and Phuoc Long provinces during Diem era, CHINH now serves as Province Census Grievance Chief and as Vice-Chairman of Provincial Council (finished fifth of six winners).

3. Tran huu DANH. Born August 8, 1918, Hanoi, NVN. Theravada Buddhist. Official of National Revolutionary Movement in Binh Duong Province during Diem era, was elected to Binh Duong Province Council in 1962. Following November, 1963, coup d'etat, he moved to Phuoc Long and opened a photography shop. Member of Provincial Council; finished sixth.

Withdrew:

Ho CHAU. Born May 1, 1930, Quang Tri, CVN. Catholic. Major, ARVN. Presently Deputy Commander 9th Regiment, 5th Division. Encouraged to run by Brig. Gen. Pham quoc Thuan, 5th Division CG, but allowed to withdraw when it became apparent he could not win.

Nguyen van BA. Born 1927, Bien Hoa, SVN. Buddhist. Disqualified for failure to furnish sufficient documentation.

Comment: CHINH can count on solid Catholic vote (30% of electorate); LUONG seems to have support of province machinery. DANH cannot win, but will take Buddhist votes away from LUONG. About 3500 Montagnard voters (of electorate of 18,000) appear to be swing vote. Turnout of 65 to 70% of registered voters probable.

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PHUOC TUY

(Ref: A-131, September 2, 1966)

One seat. Five candidates. One other withdrew.

1. Nguyen thanh LUAN. Born June 5, 1934, Ha Bac, NVN. Catholic. Saigon high school teacher.

2. Le thanh TUONG. Born November 18, 1893, Dinh Tuong, SVN. Cao Dai. Chairman of Provincial Council. Former Phuoc Tuy Province Chief under French, 1948-50, he is well-known in province. Tuong complained that Chinh and Miss Chi (below) did not submit evidence of civil service permission to go on leave one month prior to the election; Central Electoral Council rejected his complaint.

3. Nguyen huu HIEU. Born March 11, 1939, Hai Phong, NVN. Buddhist. A lawyer, Hieu is brother of Minister of Labor and former Phuoc Tuy Chief Judge Nguyen huu Hung. Both are said to be close to Vien Hoa Dao moderate Thich Tam Chau. Saigon resident.

4. Nguyen cong CHINH. Born January 18, 1930, Thua Thien, South CVN. Catholic. Recently demobilized ARVN captain; was stationed at Van Kiep Training Center in Phuoc Tuy.

5. Le quang TRUAT. Born October 2, 1925, Thua Thien, South CVN. An official of Ministry of Revolutionary Development, Saigon. Catholic.

Withdrew: Miss Dang kim CHI. Born January 10, 1936, Cholon. Miss Chi, a Saigon high school teacher, concluded that she had no chance of victory.

Comment: TUONG has the inside track as only native of province in race and is strongly supported by Phuoc Tuy notables. HIEU is the only candidate with a chance of upsetting TUONG; he is the favorite of group of young civil servants and officers and is waging vigorous campaign. He is believed also to have discreet backing of many province pagodas, thanks to his friendship with Thich Tam Chau. Catholic candidates of LUAN, CHINH, and TRUAT are probably futile; province is at most 20% Catholic. Further, Col. Nhu, Commandant of Van Kiep Training Camp, considers CHINH obnoxious, will see to it that Chinh gets few military votes.

The Province Chief is confident that 80% of 42,000 registered voters will cast ballots.

TAY NINH

Two seats. Three lists. No disqualifications or withdrawals.

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List I: Slogan: "Democracy"

1. Nguyen cao KIEN. Born October 20, 1918, Tay Ninh, SVN. Cao Dai. ARVN major (deputy CO, 49th Regiment); integrated 1954 from Cao Dai army, in which he held the same rank. His unit is stationed at Cu Chi, Hau Nghia province.

2. L. van BA. Born May 16, 1938, Long An, SVN. Buddhist. ARVN first lieutenant in medical corps; a physician. Lists residence as Saigon. May be assigned to 7th Regiment, 5th Division.

List II: Slogan: "Society"

1. Nguyen tran VAN. Born February 2, 1909, Ha Dong, NVN. Cao Dai. Merchant. Settled in Tay Ninh in 1954.

2. Vc trung NGHIA. Born December 13, 1898, Tay Ninh, SVN. Buddhist. Landowner. Former civil servant. Finished fifth of twelve elected to Provincial Council in 1965.

List III: Slogan: "Charity and Justice"; symbol: Pine Tree. (This list has backing of the Cao Dai hierarchy.)

1. Nguyen huu LUONG. Born August 26, 1924, Long An, SVN. Cao Dai. Principal of a private Cao Dai school which he founded in Tay Ninh and high-ranking layman in the sect. Interpreter Japanese trading firm during WW II. Secretary-general of provincial council in 1951. Participated in Cao Dai pope Pham Cong Tac's "Peaceful Coexistence Movement" in 1956; imprisoned for this reason, 1957-59, after ac fled to Cambodia. Married to daughter of Ho tan Khoa (aka Ho bao Dao), a close associate of Tac's. Elected to the National Assembly in 1963. Cao Dai nominee to People's-Army Council, 1966, in which he serves on cultural committee. Luong is said to have modified his neutralist views.

2. To binh CAM. Born 1920, Vinh Binh, SVN. Cao Dai. Merchant. Major in the Cao Dai army of Gen. Trinh minh The; integrated into ARVN with same rank in 1955 and retired in 1957. Long-time Cao Dai functionary. Finished ninth of twelve elected to Provincial Council in 1965 and then elected chairman. Attended 2nd National Administrative Conference, March, 1966; National Political Congress, April, 1966; member, Electoral Law Drafting Committee. The Province Chief, Lt. Col. Ho duc Trung, an influential Cao Dai, reportedly tried to replace Cam with some other candidate.

Comment: The Cao Dai list headed by Luong is expected to get well over 50% of the vote, but probably not the 75% required to win both seats. Major Kien (whose list is regarded in the province as a creature of the Central Government in Saigon) is therefore expected to win the second seat.

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Statistical Analysis of Candidates

A. 73 candidates (13% of the nation's total of 542) are competing for 15 seats (14% of the natinn's 108) in 11 constituencies.

Constituency	Seats	Candidates	Candidates per Seat
Vung Tau/Con Son	1	7	7
Bien Hoa	3	18	6
Binh Duong	2	12	6
Binh Long	1	3	3
Binh Tuy	1	2	2
Hau Nghia	1	5	5
Long Khanh	1	7	7
Long An	1	5	5
Phuoc Long	1	3	3
Phuoc Tuy	1	5	5
Tay Ninh	2	6	3
Totals	15	73	4.9

B. AGE: Average and median age is in the mid-40's, with all age groups well-represented.

	over 55	45-54	35-44	25-34
Vung Tau/Con Son	2	1	2	2
Bien Hoa	6	6	4	2
Binh Duong	1	4	3	4
Binh Long		1	1	1
Binh Tuy			2	
Hau Nghia	1	1	2	1
Long Khanh	4	1	1	1
Long An		1	3	1
Phuoc Long	1	2		
Phuoc Tuy	1		2	2
Tay Ninh	2	2	1	1
Totals	18	19	21	15

C. Regional Origin and Religion

Thirty-four of the 73 candidates were born in North Viet-Nam (tongkin); 32 in the South and 7 in Central Viet-Nam. As might be expected, nearly all of the northerners are refugee Catholics; most of this group was resettled in eastern III Corps. There are 31 Catholics seeking office in the area, 24 Buddhists, 7 Confucianists, 6 Cao Dai, 1 Protestant, 1 candidate who claims no religion, and 3 whose religion is unknown.

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D. Current Residence

There is considerable "carpetbagging" in constituencies easily reached from Saigon. Forty-seven of the candidates presently reside in the provinces whose seats they contest; eighteen are from the Saigon area, and eight from nearby provinces. About a third of the first group are civil servants or officers temporarily stationed in these con tituencies, however, and are regarded as outsiders by the populace.

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Twenty civil servants (6 of them retired) ar the most prominent occupational grouping among III Corps candidates, followed by merchants and businessmen (16), teachers (15), and army officers (10). The list is rounded out with a scattering of landowners, lawyers, and others. Seventeen candidates also serve on province councils; three are members of the People's Army Council.

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